

REMARKS

The May 16, 2003 election requirement holds that this application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct species. More specifically, Applicants are required to elect one of the following patentably distinct species for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Species I - Figure 16;

Species II - Figures 20 and 21;

Species III- Figure 22;

Species IV - Figure 23; and

Species V - Figure 24.

Additionally, the Office Action indicates that at least claims 1 and 11 are is generic.

In response, Applicants hereby elect the species illustrated in Figure 16 *without traverse*. Applicant believes that claims 1-3, 7, 11-13, and 17 are generic, claims 4, 8, 14, and 18 read on all of the aforementioned Figures except Figure 24, and claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, and 20 read on Figure 24.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11-14, 17, and 18 because they read on the elected species shown in Figure 16. Claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, and 20 are believed to be directed to a non-elected embodiment. Thus, these claims can be withdrawn from consideration in this case. However, Applicants respectfully request that these non-elected claims be considered upon the allowance of a generic claim in accordance with U.S. patent practice.

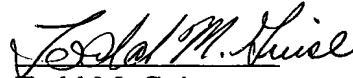
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Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/085,053  
Filed: March 1, 2002

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Dated: 6/11/03

G:06-Jun03-MOVED-US010068 Restriction Response